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#### THE PERFUME THE LADY IN BLACK

By GASTON LEROUX, Author of "The Mystery of the Yellow Room."

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To be Continued.)

We come not answer Darrac told us that the event which had changed the face of his existence had taken place at Bourg. Two compartments of the sleeping car had been reserved by Darzae, and these compartments were joined by a little dressing room. In one had been placed the traveling bag with the tollet articles of Mme. Darzac and to the other the smaller packages. It was to the latter compartment that the Darzacs and Proor Stangerson had traveled from Paris to Dijon, where the three had left the train and had dined at the They had arrived at 6:27 o'clock, exactly on time, and M. Stangerson had left Dijon at eight minutes after 7 and the Darzacs at just

The professor had bidden adieu to his daughter and his son-in-law upon the platform of the station. The Darzacs had returned to one of their compartments and remained at the window, chatting with the professor until the train started. As it steamed out the pair waved their bands to Stangerson, who was standing on the platform throwing kisses.

From Dijou to Bourg neither M. nor Mme. Darzac had occasion to enter the adjacent compartment, where Mme. Darzac's night bag bad been placed. The door had not been locked either upon the outside with a key by the porter nor on the inside with the bolt by the Darzacs. The curtain of the glass door had been drawn over the pane from the inside by M. Darsac in such a way that no one could look into the compartment from the corridor. But the curtain between the two compartments had not been drawn. All of these circumstances were brought out by the questions asked by Rouletabille of M. Darzac.

When they reached Bourg our travelers learned that on account of anaccident on the line at Culoz the train would be delayed for ap bour and a half. M. and Mme. Darzac alighted and took a stroll on the platform. Durzac while talking with his wife mentioned the fact that he had, forgotten to write important letters before leaving Paris. Both entered the buffet, and Darzac asked for writing materials. Mathilde sat beside bim for a few moments and then remarked that she would take a little walk through the station while he finished

his letters. "Very well," replied Darzac. soon as I have finished I will join

From that point I will quote Dar-

mac's own words.
"I had finished writing." be said. "and I arose to go and look for Mathilde when I saw her approaching the buffet pailed and trembling. As soon as she perceived me she uttered utter any other words. She was shaking from head to foot. I tried to caim her, and I begged her to take some restorative. Her teeth chattered as though she had an ague. At length she told me that she bad started to walk about the station, but that she had not dared to go far lest I should my writing and look for her. Then she went upon the platform, when she noticed the sleeping car porters making up the bed in a berth near our own. She remembered immediately that ber night traveling bag, in which she had put her jewels, was standing unlocked, and she decided to go and lock it up without delay. She stered the car, walked down the corridor and came to the glass door of the compartment reserved for her. She opened the door and instantly uttered a cry of horror. No one heard her, for there was no one in that part of the car, and a train which passed at that mement drowned the sound of ber voice with the clamor of the locomotive. What had happened to alarm

"The little door opening upon the dressing cabinet was half drawn toward the lagerior of the section, cutting off diagonally the view of whoever might enter. This little door was ornamented by a mirror. There in the glass Mathilde beheld the face of Lar-

#### CHAPTER IV.

"She Will Go Mad Again!"

TAT HEN she had told me these things." Darzae continued. "my first care was to try to convince her that she was laboring under some bideous delusion. Wasn't Larsan dead and buried? Igoffered to accompany Mathilde at once to the compartment in order to prove to her that she had been the victim of a hallucination. She was bitterly opposed to the idea, crying out that neither she nor I must ever enter the compartment again. She said that she remembered peared before her twice under such circumstances as would impress it indelibly upon ber memory, even if she were to live for a century-once during the strange scene in the gallery and again at the moment when they came into her sickroom to place me under ar-And then, now that she knew who Larsan was, it was not only the features of the secret service agent that she had recognized, but the dreaded countenance of the man who had pursued her for years.

"She cried out that she could swear on her life and on mine that she had seen Ballmeyer-nilve in the glass, with the smooth face of Larsan.

"I explained to the superintendent that my wife had been frightened at something she fancled that she had seen while alone in our compartment.

and I begged him to keep her in his office while I went myself to discover

what it was that she had seen. "And then, my friends," continued Robert Darzac, his voice beginning to tremble, "I left the superintendent's office, but I had ne sooner got out of the room than I went back and slammed the door behind me. I, too, had seen Larsan. My wife and had no ulusion. Larsan was there in the station upon the platform outside that door. He was there in front of the superintendent's door, standing under a gas jet. Evidently he expectat us and was waiting for us. He made no effort to bide himself. On the contrary, any one would have declared that he had stationed himself there for the express purpose of being seen.

"Mathilde was staring at me, her great eyes wide open, speechless, as though she were a somnambulist. In moment, bowever, she came back to herself sufficiently to ask me whether it were far from Bourg to Lyons. At the same time she begged me to give orders about our baggage and asked me to accede to ber desire to rejoin ber father as soon as possible. I immediately entered into her plans. Besides, now that I had seen Larsan with my own eyes, I knew well that the long boneymoon trip which we had planned must be given up, and, my dear boy," went on Darzac, turning to Rouletabille, "1 became possessed with the idea that we were running the risk of some mysterious danger from which you alone could rescue us, if not already too late. Mathiide was grateful to me for the readiness with which I fell in with her wish to join her father when I told ber that in a few minutes we would be on board the 9:29 train. which reaches Lyons at about 10 o'clock, and we discovered that we would overtake M. Stangerson himself at that point. I will pass over his amazement when he beheld us upon the platform of the station at Lyons. Mathilde explained to him that on account of a serious accident which had closed the line at Culoz we had decided to join him and spend a few days with him at the home of Arthur Rance and his young wife, as we had before been entreated to do by this

I here interrupted M. Darsac's parrative to recall to the memory of the reader of "The Mystery of the Yellow Room" the fact that Arthur William Rance had for many years cherished a hopeless devotion for Mile. Stanger-son, but had at last overcome it and married a beautiful American girl who knew nothing of the mysterious ad-

entures of the professor's daughter. After the affair at the Glandler and while Mile. Stapperson was still a pa-tient in a private asylum near Paris, where the treatment restored her to health and reason, we heard one fine a shrick and threw herself into my day that Rance was about to wed the arms. 'Oh, my God,' she cried, 'oh, my niece of an old professor of geology at God!' It seemed impossible for her to the Academy of Science in Philadephia. Those who had known of his luckless passion for Mathilde and had gauged its depths by the excess with which it was displayed believed that Rance was marrying in desperation and prophesied little happiness for the union. They were fiving at Bochers Rouges in the old castle on the peninsula of Hercules.

Darzae continued his story: "When we had given these explanations to M. Stangerson my wife and 1 saw that he seemed to understand very little of what we find said, and be appeared very mournful. Her father saw that something had happened since we had left him which we were conceal-ing from him. Matbilde began to talk of the ceremony of the morning, and in that way the conversation came around to you, my young friend"-and again Darzae addressed bimself to Rouletabille-"and I took the occasion to say to M. Stangerson that since your vacation was just beginning at the time that we were all going to Mentone you might be pleased with an invitation that would give you the chance of spending your boilday in our society. There was, I said, plenty of room at Rochers Ronges, and I was certain that M. Arthur Rance and his bride would extend to you a cordial reicome. While I was speaking Mathlide looked gratefully at me and pressed my hand tenderly. Thus it hapened that when we reached Vadispatch which you must have received. While her father rested in his compartments next to ours Mathilde opened my traveling bag and took out my revolver, suying, 'If he should attack us you must defend yourself." Ah, what a night we passed! I longed to console ber, to comfort ber, but 1 found no words. And when core I at-tempted to speak she made a gesture so full of misery and desotation that I realized that I would be far kinder if I kept silence." This was Darzac's story. We felt,

Rouletablile and myself, that the narrative was so important that we both resolved on arriving at Mentone that we would write it down from memory. At the station of Mentone Garavan they found Arthur Rance, who was astonished at beholding the bride and bridegroom. But when he was told that they intended to spend a few days with him he was delighted. Arthur Rance had not, even after his marriage to Miss Edith Prescott, been able to overcome the extreme reserve

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## THE LADIES WORLD

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A to party was banded to me. and without opening it I went back to Darzne and Rouletabille. "Read this," I said to the young re-

Rouletabille opened the envelope and

"Brignolles has not been away from Paris since April 6. This is an abso-

ute certainty." Rouletabille then said: "Well, what does this amount to

low that you have it?" "It was at Dijon," I rejoined, vexed at the attitude of the lad, "that the e concerned in the misfortunes crowding upon us and of which warning was given by the telegrams you re juiries in regard to the movements of

"Well." said Ronietabille, "you have our inquiries answered. Are you tilling to admit now that Brignolles s not and has never been Larsan in

"I never thought of any such thing s that!" I excinimed. I suspected hat Rouletabille was laughing at me. The truth was that the idea had ac-

ally entered my mind. And this time both Darzac and Rouetablile begged my pardon and paid their respects to my despised intui ions. I mention this incident here to show to how great an extent I was haunted by the image of Larsan biding under some new form and lurking unknown among us. Dear beaven; Larsan had so often proved his gentus in this respect that I felt him quite capable of defying us now and of mingling with us perhaps even as s

To be Continued.)

Satin charmouse has again taken the Small children are wearing Russian blouses made in white and colored Slowly but surely the line of the walst is returning to its natural pos-

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with which Darzac had always treated him.

So far as Darzac was concerned, the terror which he felt was increased by news brought to us by Arthur Rance when he met us at Nice. But before this there had occurred a little incident which I cannot pass by in silence. As soon as we reached the Nice station I had jumped from the train and burried into the telegraph office to ask whether there was any message for

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